



ISSUE BRIEF

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Addressing Inadequate Orthopedic Hospitals in Nigeria: Issues for National Assembly Consideration

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Summary

Given a population size of over 210 million people, and the rising trends in injuries to bones, ligaments, and tendons, sustained by road accident victims, insurgents' attack victims, amongst others, *the need for the establishment of orthopaedic hospitals across the geopolitical zones in the country cannot be overemphasized. Whereas, the National Health Policy 2017 aims at strengthening and prioritizing the role of the government in shaping health systems including orthopaedic treatment in Nigeria.*

Suffice that during the regional government arrangement, the National Orthopedic Hospital Management Board Act, 2004 had established only **three (3)** National Orthopaedic Hospitals located at; Kano (Northern Region), Enugu (Eastern Region), and Lagos (Western Region). *Cognizant of geopolitical balancing of specialized medical institutions such as the Orthopaedic Hospitals in Nigeria, it is imperative to establish additional three (3) Orthopedic Hospitals in the South-South, North-Central and North-East geopolitical zones of Nigeria.*

Given the present situation, Nigerian citizens in the aforementioned geopolitical zones are denied access to orthopaedic treatment and medical services. Consequently, accident victims and other individuals that need orthopaedic treatment and services have to travel long distances to other geopolitical zones (Kano, Lagos, or Enugu) to access medical care. Regarding the cost of establishing the Hospital, our analysis shows that the on the average, it takes about ₦3.1 billion to fund each existing orthopedic hospital.

Actionable Recommendations for the National Assembly

Based on the analysis, the following actionable recommendations are suggested for the consideration of the National Assembly.

- i.* It is recommended that the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Jos (North Central); National Orthopaedic Hospital Maiduguri (North-East); and National Orthopaedic Hospital, Benin (South-South) may be established through *the amendment of the National Orthopaedic Hospital Management Board Act 2004;*



- ii. From (i) above, and referring to line 4 of the Second Schedule of the Principal Act, it is recommended that the National Assembly may consider inserting the words “Orthopaedic Hospital, Jos”, “Orthopaedic Hospital, Maiduguri”, and “Orthopaedic Hospital, Benin” immediately after “Orthopaedic Hospital, Kano.”*
- iii. Referring to line 4 of the Third Schedule of the Principal Act; it is recommended that the National Assembly may wish to insert the words “Orthopaedic Hospital, Jos”, “Orthopaedic Hospital, Maiduguri”, and “Orthopaedic Hospital, Benin”, alongside the word “University of Jos Teaching Hospital”, “University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital”, and “University of Benin Teaching Hospital”*
- iv. Following (iii) above, it is recommended that Orthopaedic Hospital, Jos, Orthopaedic Hospital, Maiduguri, and Orthopaedic Hospital, Benin City, be affiliated with the University of Jos Teaching Hospital, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, and University of Benin Teaching Hospital, respectively
- v. Cognizant of the “gold standard” of state cohesion as epitomized by the kernel of federal character, and deemed to be operationalized through geopolitical balancing of establishing specialized medical institutions such as the Orthopaedic Hospitals in Nigeria, it is imperative to establish these additional Orthopaedic Hospitals in line with Section 14 (3) and (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.



1. Introduction:

The National Orthopaedic Hospital Management Board Act CAP 010 LFN 2004 hereinafter referred to as the “Principal Act”, had established only **three (3)** National Orthopedic Hospitals located at; Kano (North-West), Enugu (South-East), and Lagos (South West) States of Nigeria. However, given a population size of over 210 million people, and the rising trends in injuries to bones, ligaments, and tendons, sustained by road accident victims, insurgents’ attack victims, amongst others, the need for the establishment of orthopedic hospitals across the geopolitical zones in the country cannot be overemphasized. Whereas, the National Health Policy 2017 aims at strengthening and prioritizing the role of the government in shaping health systems including orthopedic treatment in Nigeria. Orthopedics is a medical specialty that focuses on injuries and diseases of the body’s musculoskeletal system. This complex system, which includes the bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, muscles, and nerves, allows the human being to move, work, and be active. This Policy Brief aims at drawing the attention of the National Assembly to this issue and proffer actionable recommendation for policy action.

2. The Issue

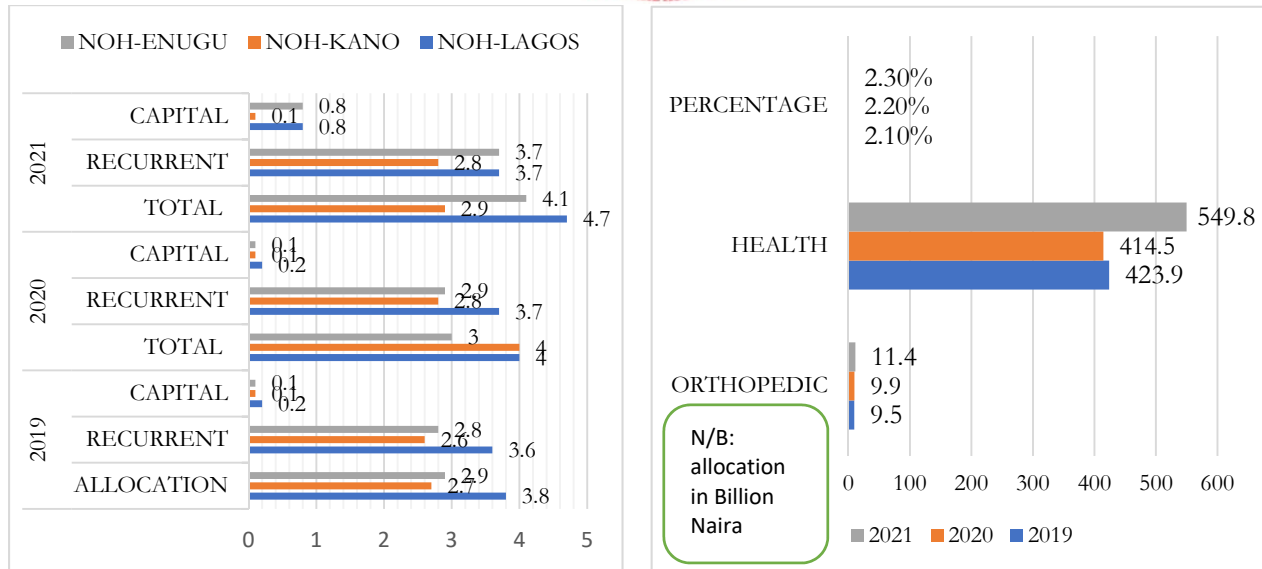
Cognizant of geopolitical balancing for the establishment of specialized medical institutions such as the Orthopaedic Hospitals in Nigeria, it is imperative to establish additional three (3) Orthopedic Hospitals in the South-South, North-

Central and North-East geopolitical zones of Nigeria. Again, cognizant of the “gold standard” of state cohesion as epitomized by the kernel of federal character, and deemed to be operationalized through geopolitical balancing of establishing specialized medical institutions such as the Orthopaedic Hospitals in Nigeria, it is imperative to establish these additional Orthopaedic Hospitals in line with Section 14 (3) and (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. The establishment of these three additional Orthopedic Hospital is necessary to provide access to orthopedic treatment and services for Nigerians in the respective geopolitical zones.

3. Government Policy on Health in relation to Orthopaedic Hospital

The National Health Policy, 2017, in relation to the establishment of orthopedic hospitals aims at strengthening and prioritizing the role of the government in shaping health systems in all its dimensions. Suffice that the existing orthopedic hospitals were created during the regional government, however, with the current geopolitical zones arrangement, the need to establish orthopedic hospital in each zone cannot be overemphasized.

Figure 1: Trend in Budgetary Allocation to Existing Orthopedic Hospitals in Nigeria (2019-20



Source: 2019, 2020, and 2021 Appropriations Act of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

4. Financing of the existing orthopedic hospitals

The existing orthopedic hospitals in Nigeria is financed from the annual budgetary allocations to the health sector. As shown in Figure 2, the allocations to the existing orthopedic hospitals represents 9.5%, 9.9%, and 11.4% of the health sector budget in 2019, 2020, and 2021 respectively. A disaggregation of the budgetary allocation to orthopedic hospitals shows that ₦4.1 billion, ₦ 4.7 billion and ₦ 2.8 billion were allocated to Orthopedic Hospital Enugu, Orthopedic Hospital, Igbobi Lagos, and Orthopedic Hospital Kano respectively. As things stand, an average of

₦3.1 billion is prioritize for each orthopedic hospitals. Thus the establishment of additional orthopedic hospital in Abuja is projected at 3.1 billion thus pushing the budgetary envelope for orthopedic treatment to around 13 billion naira.

5. Policy Recommendations

i. It is recommended that the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Jos (North Central); National Orthopaedic Hospital Maiduguri (North-East); and National Orthopaedic Hospital, Benin (South-South) may be established

ii. through the amendment of the National Orthopaedic Hospital Management Board Act 2004;

iii. From (i) above, and referring to line 4 of the Second Schedule of the Principal Act, it is recommended that the National Assembly may consider inserting the words “Orthopaedic Hospital, Jos”, “Orthopaedic



Hospital, Maiduguri”, and “Orthopaedic Hospital, Benin” immediately after “Orthopaedic Hospital, Kano.”

iv. Referring to line 4 of the Third Schedule of the Principal Act; it is recommended that the National Assembly may wish to insert the words “Orthopaedic Hospital, Jos”, Orthopaedic Hospital, Maiduguri”, and Orthopaedic Hospital, Benin”, alongside the word “University of Jos Teaching Hospital”, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital’, and University of Benin Teaching Hospital”

v. Following (iii) above, it is recommended that Orthopaedic Hospital, Jos, Orthopaedic Hospital, Maiduguri, and Orthopaedic Hospital, Benin City, be affiliated with the University of Jos Teaching Hospital, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, and University of Benin Teaching Hospital, respectively.

vi. Cognizant of the “gold standard” of state cohesion as epitomized by the kernel of federal character, and deemed to be operationalized through geopolitical balancing of establishing specialized medical institutions such as the Orthopaedic Hospitals in Nigeria, it is imperative to establish these additional Orthopaedic Hospitals in line with Section 14 (3) and (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.

The Policy Brief is motivated by the need to establish additional three (3) Orthopedic Hospitals in the North-East, North-Central, and South-South geopolitical zones of Nigeria. This is aimed at providing Nigerians in those geopolitical zones responsive access to orthopedic treatment and services. The ensuing analysis shows that the establishment of those additional orthopedic hospitals is in line with the National Health Policy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. To establish these hospitals, it is recommended that the National Assembly may consider the amendment of the National Orthopaedic Hospital Management Board CAP 010 LFN 2004 highlighted as well as the accompanying recommendations.

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6. Conclusion